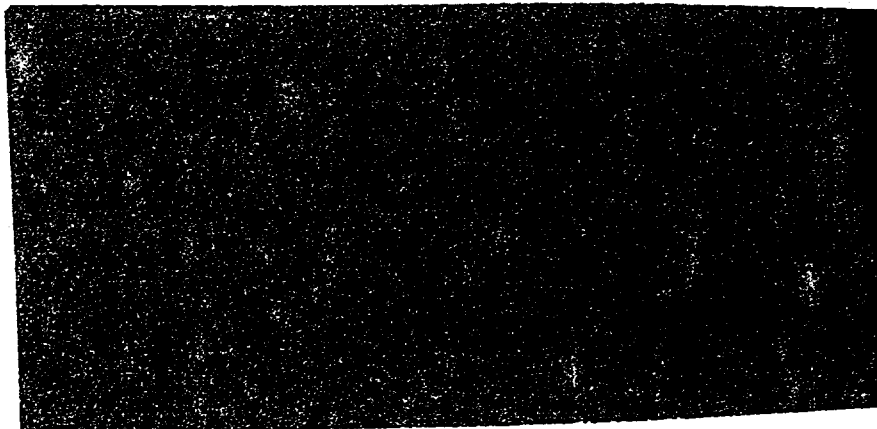




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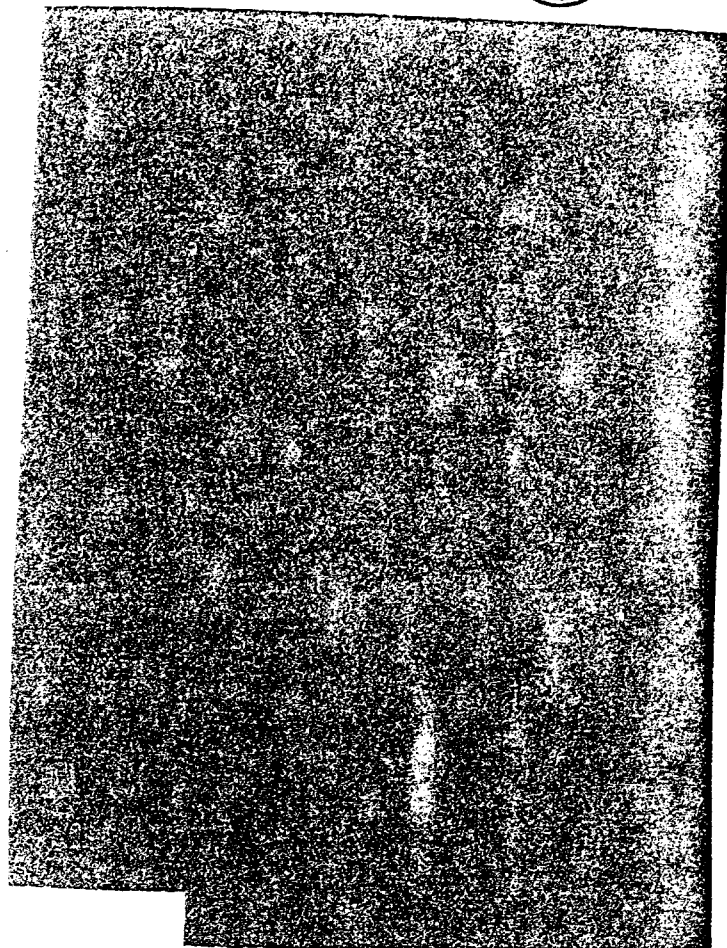
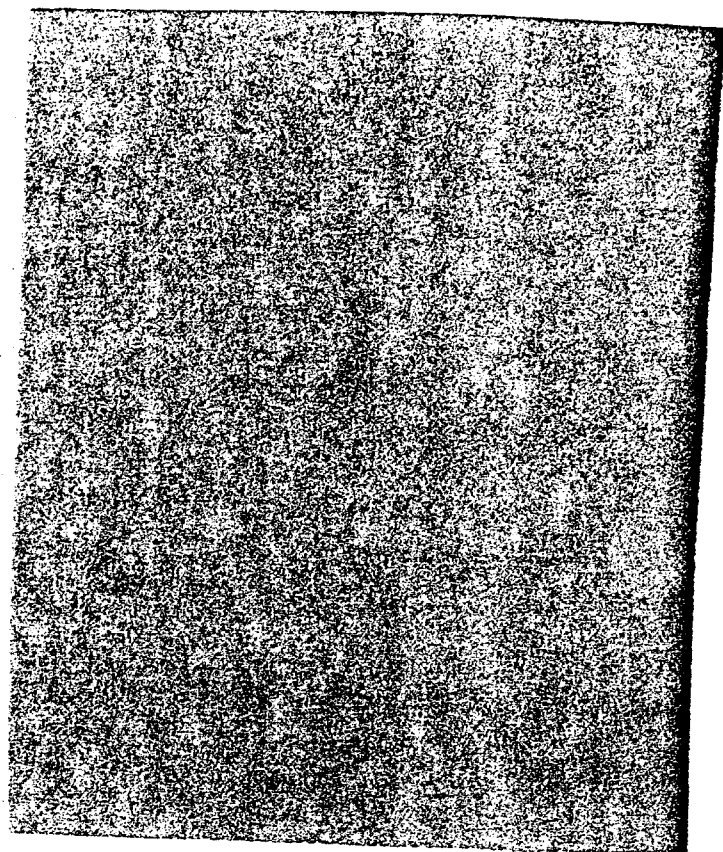
WEEKLY SUMMARY



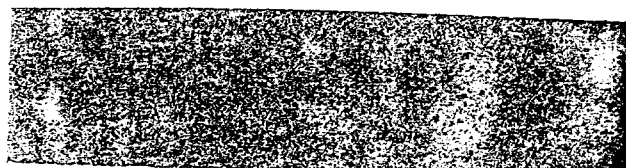
March 1973

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CONTENTS (9 March 1973)



21 Guyana: Election Warm-Up



GUYANA: ELECTION WARM-UP

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham has been engaging in a variety of domestic and international moves with an eye to the national election that probably will be held in June.

On 20 February, Burnham gave Guyanese workers a week-long vacation to celebrate the third anniversary of the republic and incidentally his own 50th birthday. The official festivities were replete with expressions of praise for the prime minister and his programs. Burnham himself issued lofty calls for racial brotherhood.

Two other announcements dealt with issues long exploited by Cheddi Jagan, Burnham's only real political opponent. Local rice farmers were assured that they will be getting more for their crops because the government had succeeded in negotiating better prices abroad. The prospect of new public housing, to be built by the government on some 5,000 acres of under-utilized sugar land, was dangled before the homeless poor who recently tried to squat on acreage belonging to private companies.

On the international scene, Burnham, in a sudden about-face, has agreed to allow the Soviets to establish a small embassy in Georgetown.

the USSR will be authorized to send a resident charge after the national election.

There is likely to be further haggling between Moscow and Georgetown over the precise terms of the new relationship, and in any case a Soviet mission will not set up shop until sometime after Guyana's elections.

Burnham may also see a resident Soviet mission as a counterpoise to the apparently growing influence of the Chinese.